

# HONORING THE 2016–2017 GRADUATES OF THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

## HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in commending the 2016–2017 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year, 47 Collin County students from public and private schools in grades 9 through 12 made a significant impact in their community, their country, and their Congress by participating in CYAC. Through the CYAC program, these students volunteered their talent, expertise, and time to engage on issues that are important to their generation.

I continue to be inspired by the high-caliber students who partake in my CYAC program, and this year was no exception. We had a diverse group of students who already participate in a multitude of activities including student government, community service, honor societies, athletics, fine arts, and language clubs. It was exciting to see them apply their experiences and interests to CYAC. They were always excited to share their ideas about how to create a lasting and sustainable future for our country, and it was encouraging to see their determination, knowledge, and willingness to help those around them. Throughout the past school year, the students met to discuss issues that affect our everyday lives. They then applied their knowledge to various homework assignments and group activities.

Our first meeting focused on Homeland Security—a hot topic of great interest for many CYAC students. They heard from special guests District Attorney Greg Willis, new Collin County Sheriff Jim Skinner, and FBI Special Agent in Charge Tom Petrowski. The students learned about national security at the local level and how Americans' security is a team effort between local, state, and federal leaders. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Collin County Detention Center.

Their second meeting began with the Congressional Veterans Commendation Ceremony. At this event, they learned about local veterans' inspiring stories and helped honor these veterans' unique legacies of service. Following the ceremony, students met with my Chief of Staff and Legislative Director for an insider's view on what it's like to work in the halls of Congress. The students' first semester closed with Captain Sam Brown sharing his testimony of military and civilian service. He also encouraged them to tackle obstacles and embrace taking on leadership roles.

The CYAC students kicked off the spring semester with a Mock Congress. During this event, students learned firsthand the legislative process and how Congress operates. Each student was assigned to a committee with jurisdiction over bills that they were able to amend, debate, and ultimately vote on. Lastly, the students gave back to their hometowns by completing CYAC in the Community—service projects where they volunteered their time to community service work. Altogether, our CYAC students donated over 185 community service hours to Collin County.

I thank each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council for making this year a

success. They are the voices of the future, and I'm proud of them for all that they've achieved. God bless them and God bless America. I salute them.

Kayla Adams, Shambhavi Badi, Shree Balaji, Brooklyn Baum, Joshua Brock, Reagan Cantrell, Allison Chang, Brandon Chen, Catherine Chen, Zachary Clonch, Emily Crone, Matthew Daley, Niruti Dhoble, Austin Dwiggin, Sam Fanatico, Nicholas Garcia, Sreeragini Ghantasala, Emma Guerra, Luke Harrell, Alice Hou, Timothy Interrante, Austin Katzer, Ruxton Kelly, Abby Kistner, Tatiana Laporte, Olivia Larson, Nicholas Le.

I-Jung Lin, David Lorenz, Jonathan Lu, Rahul Naik, Swetha Pamidimukkala, Padmashree Pandey, Purvee Patel, Jackson Pierce, David Qian, Ben Randoing, Elizabeth Reed, Emiko Rinkliff, Jakob Shackleton, Cameron Stapleton, Parker Stevens, Nicolas Teachenor, Sai Vogirala, Scott Walker, Emily Ward, Trent Yarbrough.

# HONORING PRESIDENT TSAI ING-WEN'S 1ST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE

## HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, since President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan assumed office one year ago, she has continued to bolster the robust and beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

President Tsai has repeatedly stated over the past year her commitment to the status quo across the Taiwan Strait. To help Taiwan support this goal, we must ensure that its legitimate defense requirements are adequately addressed. This is an ironclad commitment that is unequivocally articulated in the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances. In fact, in March of this year, two of our upgraded *Oli-ver Hazard Perry*-class frigates were delivered to Taiwan, highlighting our existing strong military and security ties.

Looking forward, we are confident that the U.S. and Taiwan will build on our already solid foundation and continue to foster our bilateral relations across a wide ranging number of fields. I look forward to hearing the Trump Administration's plans for deepening this relationship in the years ahead.

I congratulate President Tsai on her first anniversary as the President of Taiwan, and look forward to even closer U.S.-Taiwan cooperation under her leadership in the years to come.

# CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

## HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Association of Home Builders on its 75th Anniversary.

Founded in 1942, NAHB represents the interests of the nation's home building industry

and helps create a business environment that facilitates home building, enables more Americans to achieve homeownership, and provides rental housing at all price points.

As an organization, NAHB is much more than builders and remodelers. Its membership includes building trades professionals, architects and designers, developers, and representatives of countless industries that provide goods and services in support of the residential construction industry. This includes engineering, insurance, financial services, building product supply, transportation and many others.

The goal set forth in the Housing Act of 1949 of "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family" has been a guiding principle for NAHB and its members, and they have made great strides in achieving that goal. During NAHB's 75 years, the total number of housing units in the United States has more than tripled, growing from about 35 million to almost 136 million.

The nation's standard of living has also increased significantly as a result of the hard work of NAHB members, who build roughly 80 percent of the new homes constructed in the U.S. each year. A look back shows how far we have come since 1942, when more than 30 percent of the nation's homes had no running water or flush toilets, almost 40 percent had no bathtub or shower, 18 percent needed major repairs, almost 60 percent lacked central heat, and 20 percent of occupied units were overcrowded. Now, virtually all homes have complete plumbing systems and central heating, and many fewer homes are considered overcrowded or in need of major repairs.

NAHB members were instrumental in these significant advances in the quality of the nation's housing and the resulting improvement in the quality of life and standard of living in our country. Through the decades, those same members have also been at the forefront of innovation, helping to make the nation's homes significantly more resource efficient and sustainable.

Equally important, NAHB members are vital to the social fabric of their local communities and are actively involved in a multitude of civic and philanthropic endeavors. America's home builders are also essential to the nation's economic health. Home building accounts for roughly 16 percent of the total U.S. economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor and congratulate NAHB on the organization's 75th Anniversary. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in acknowledging the important role that the residential construction industry has played over the last 75 years in the nation's economy and the lives of its citizens.

And I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the National Association of Home Builders and its members for serving the nation through their ongoing commitment to building the nation's homes and communities and in urging them to remain steadfast in their efforts to meet the housing needs of all American families.

# HONORING BRELAND PENDLETON

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 17, 2017*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student,